

KAMP KANAWANA
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL

CAMP DIRECTOR'S REPORT
SUMMER 1974

KAMP KANAWANA

1974 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The eighty-first year of Kamp Kanawana has come to an end. I look back with many fond memories and some unpleasant ones too but overall a very successful season from most aspects.

The following report is intended to give an impression of this summer's kamp as well as assist us in the plannings of Kamp Kanawana 1975 in order to continue to improve the quality.

I have never learned so much in such a short time about so many things as I have in the past year's involvement with Kamp Kanawana. As Kamp Director, I made several mistakes and apologize if anyone has been hurt in the process. Any decisions made have taught me much about the position of Kamp Director and about myself. With the help and guidance of Tom Potts as well as the excellent performance of most of our kamp staff, we were able to accomplish most of our objectives for the season.

Registration this summer was slightly ahead of budget. In the ten year survey which was recently completed, there were two significant findings. Firstly, this year showed that we had the highest percentage of returnee campers registered in the past ten years (45.2%). We also saw the highest average stay for campers in the past ten years with an average stay of 2.9 weeks.

Registration figures are as follows:

Camper Weeks

	<u>Session</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>Total</u>
Junior Girls		44	72	48	64	228
Junior Boys		70	102	98	102	372
Senior Girls		72	94	80	70	316
Senior Boys		<u>68</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>348</u>
		254	362	318	330	1264

Staff hiring started in December '73. It was completed by early May, but due to staff agreement cancellations, we were compelled to continue the process until kamp opened. Perhaps there may be a way to get a more definite commitment from our staff in the future at the time of hiring.

We were fortunate this year by having an exceptionally large percentage (72%) of returnee staff with us. Their previous experience at Kanawana together with their maturity added greatly to the success of this summer's operation.

As I was responsible for the program in 1973, I can easily compare this year's to last. Undoubtedly, it was far superior this year. The program was expertly handled by Stuart McLean. He was a Section Director in '71 and had been on staff for several years before that. I had much trouble recruiting the "best person" for the position of Assistant Kamp Director but believe that the "best person" possible was hired. I sincerely thank Stuart for his dedication to Kamp Kanawana and his support. It is my hope that he will return next season as Assistant Kamp Director to continue with the fine work he did this summer.

This summer we saw a slight re-organization but more importantly, a different approach with more ingenuity, flexibility and variety in programming. Such things as kampers and staff getting involved in kamp improvements was the most evident. We saw a group of senior kampers design and repaint the Lodge as well as the oldest senior boys building a terrific outdoor sauna across the lake. My thanks to the two staff involved Jon Grier and Bill Flaschner respectively for their enthusiasm and encouragement of these two projects.

I believe one of the greatest improvements in program, in terms of quality and quantity, was that of the Hike and Trip Department. This area was again excellently handled by Perry Olshansky. The enthusiasm generated for overnight trips became so great that it became difficult at time to meet the demand.

Each and every one of the 100 plus trips this summer was successful and all indications from the kamper questionnaires are very positive about the trips. We saw many happy faces after a week long canoe trip or our first hike along the Aderandack Trail. My thanks to Perry especially and his Department for a job well done.

The kampers at Kanawana went home happy this summer. There were only a few difficulties that arose and at that most were minor in nature. Most of these difficulties and also the supervision and operation of the four sections were excellently handled by the four Section Directors, Eva Menzak, Kerry Finucan, Kathy Maclean and Bob Fyfe. My sincerest thanks to these four for their determination and cooperation throughout the summer.

Both waterfronts were well handled and supervised by our waterfront staff. After having sent four of our staff to the Canadian Canoe School, the quality of canoe instruction (as well as repairs) improved tremendously over last year. The sailing program did not suffer from some of the equipment difficulties that it did last year and consequently functioned smoothly with more kampers able to participate in the instruction. My thanks to each and everyone of the waterfront staff for their efforts this summer.

Despite the new activities in kamp this summer, the expansion of the Arts and Crafts program was worthwhile as it again proved a very popular program. The Arts and Crafts Director, Jan Chartrand, once again had her Department producing many fine pieces of work as well as banners, etc. for all kamp programs. My thanks to Jan and her staff.

The Counsellor-in-Training program was headed this year by Pat Morrow from the Westmount Y's leader corp. The C.I.T.s experienced such things as a bronze lifesaving course (all but 2 were successful), a six day canoe trip with Perry Olshansky (Hike and Trip Director '73 and '74), a four day theory session on communications, etc. where they planned "Camp C.I.T." in detail. They also had direct participation in all areas of Kanawana and most are now well trained to become staff at kamp next year.

The kitchen and dining hall at kamp this summer was probably cleaner than it has been in several years due to many factors. Our Head Chef, Mrs. Madeleine Wundele, and her staff were consistent in serving many fine meals. The only concern that I have here was the unpopularity of certain meals on the menu. Perhaps it is my fault for not bringing this to the attention of Ed Neal from the Downtown Y for adjustments or alterations. Before next year's food services are finalized, I would suggest that some sort of random survey be done to determine the likes and dislikes of our kampers and staff.

This should facilitate the planning of a more popular menu without altering other factors to any significant extent. It should also be mentioned here that Kanawana was one of six camps whose food service was studied this summer (done by 3 R.N., P.H.N. for a course at Loyola College). The study indicated that we rated very high as compared to these other camps.

The Business Office was extremely well managed this year by Kathy Moffat. Besides running the Business Office so well, she also got involved in some repair work for the Voyageur program as well as numerous other areas of kamp that presently do not come to mind. My thanks to her for a job well done.

As in past years, we had difficulty in hiring a registered nurse for the entire summer. We had four different R.N.s this year but it did not seem to affect the operations of the infirmary too greatly. The adjustment from nurse to nurse was relatively smooth due to the assistant nurse, Pam Reynolds.

In terms of health, less kampers and staff were sick as in past years except for a period of a week or so when some "bug" went around and had many people ill for a 24 hour period.

The Quebec Camping Association's representative, Dr. Robert Wilkinson, again visited us this summer for their annual visit. Implementing most of the recommendations from last year's Q.C.A. visit, the kamp was in excellent order and should be, in my opinion, recredited with the Q.C.A. There were numerous minor suggestions made by Dr. Wilkinson during our tour of kamp. These will all be carried out before next summer.

Les Voyageurs de la Verendrye again had a very successful season. We were very fortunate to have Paul Mongraw direct the program again after a year's absence. All trips were safe, well planned and well received by the participants. Registration was as follows:

<u>July 2 - July 16</u>	<u>July 22 - Aug. 5</u>	<u>July 22 - Aug. 12</u>
18	8	11

There are two items worth mentioning here:

1. The dates and duration of the trips might need some alterations. A discussion with Paul Mongraw and others should clear this up in the fall.
2. The new Grumman canoes were excellent from every aspect. I feel that two more should be purchased next year, equipping us with a total of eight aluminum canoes for the park.

"Wilderness Camp" operated again this year, however, with less campers than last. I feel I should have mentioned it more often than I had to eligible campers at Kamp Kanawana in order to increase registration. It is a good program, however, the income generated and the number of participants does not make it very feasible to continue but some study will be required in order to clarify its merits.

In my twenty months of contact with the YMCA and Kamp Kanawana specifically, I have met and got to know two people who I shall never forget. Olga Hall and Julien Tasse are two of the most dedicated and honest people that I have ever worked with. For their kindness, patience and understanding I shall be always grateful.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. For the most part, the majority of staff from the summer of 1974 should be re-hired. There are a few who, for one reason or another, should not be re-hired and also a few that I would be apprehensive about. For further detail on the above, please consult the personnel confidential file at the Camp Branch Office.
2. In order to retain the desired staff from '74, as well as attract some new quality people, a genuine increase in salaries will be required for most positions in kamp. It is becoming increasingly difficult to get the people we want and expect so much from them.
3. I do not believe that we have serious faults in our promotion of Kamp Kanawana due to the number of new kampers that we attract each year. But some more professional thought is required.
4. The kamp was fortunate to have a second vehicle available for the last 6 weeks. It proved very useful for trips to the hospital or Montreal, etc. Knowing the cost of maintaining Kanawana's truck, as well as our present needs, I would suggest that the possibility of leasing a vehicle be looked into for next summer.
5. I think that most people at kamp find the eight week season a long one. I believe that the feasibility of a two day break between a couple (or all) sessions be looked into. This would eliminate the position of "Rovers" for the sections, help rejuvenate all the staff at one time, and also help Julien with his work as the kamp would virtually be empty during these times.
6. The foundation grant was extremely helpful in improving the site the summer. Some more program and other equipment is desirable for next summer. This should be looked into in the fall after studying the Assistant Kamp Director's report.
7. We should continue to send staff to various training schools available to us. The benefits from the Q.C.A., Canadian Canoe School and Vermont Ecology Course were tremendous this summer.

8. Pre-kamp training requires change. The concept of mixing two programs (i.e. train new staff and build on skills of returnee staff) has its merits but tends to interfere with the quality of each. A study of this year's reports and pre-kamp evaluations as well as discussing the situation with other Camp Directors should be a big help in designing pre-kamp 1975.
9. I feel that there are many potential programs that should (and maybe have been) investigated. Some are:
 1. A ninth week of camp for families.
 2. A ninth week of camp for 50 campers.
 3. Post camp canoe trips - campers
- staff
- father and son
- families, etc.
 4. Winter camping - small groups
- possibly from Kamp Kanawana
 5. Canoe School for Quebec in May-June
 6. Encourage Y (and other) Day Camps to come up for a day, etc.

This past summer has been one of the best summers for me. I believe that many of the things that I personally wanted to see happen - did. It was by no means an easy summer but a most rewarding one. I shall always be indebted to the many staff and kampers for it was they that made this past summer's experience so worthwhile to me

Respectfully submitted,

Derek V. Walsh,
Director '74.